a3 station was last allocated a transmit opportunity;

wherein said transmit priority is also a function of how long until a timeout will occur for the respective wireless station.

15. (Amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein the transmit priority is calculated according to:

a4

$$P_{transmit} = \begin{cases} -1 & dFr > a \\ Highest & dFr = a \\ \left(\frac{dFr}{trSize}\right)\left(1 + \left[\frac{1}{a - dFr} - \frac{1}{a}\right]\alpha\right) + MS\,\text{Priority} & dFr < a \end{cases}$$

where:

trSize is said transaction length;

dFr is said delay parameter;

"a" is a timeout value for a given wireless station which indicates a maximum allowable time which can elapse before the allocation of a transmit opportunity for the wireless station;

MSPriority is any suitable definition of wireless station priority;

α is an accelerator factor towards a higher priority for a given wireless station that has not been selected for a while.

21. (Amended) A base station comprising means for implementing the method of claim 1.

a5 22.(Amended) A base station controller comprising means for implementing the method of claim 1.

23. (Amended) A MAC layer device comprising means for implementing the method of claim 1.